

✓ Health care for kids.....YES

Every child needs to be able to see a doctor when they're ill or injured. I'm a sponsor of the new law that calls for all Washington children to have health care coverage by 2010. We made good progress this year by expanding health care coverage to 38,000 additional children in low-income families.



✓ Helping farms and food banksYES

A local citizen asked if I could help the Puyallup Valley's Mother Earth Farm qualify for the agricultural property-tax rates. Since Mother Earth Farm donates all its produce to food banks, they were unable to qualify. So I wrote a new law that allows the value of donated food to count when assessing whether a farm qualifies for farmland property-tax rates. Some of the best ideas for laws come from local citizens!

✓ \$180 million for school construction ..YES

I was a sponsor and a strong YES for a new law that channels existing real estate excise taxes into bonding capacity that greatly increases state assistance for local school construction. In addition to getting more children out of portables and overcrowded classrooms, this state assistance significantly reduces the local property-tax share of school construction costs.



✓ No sex offenders near schoolsYES

A new Community Protection Zone law prohibits anyone convicted of a serious sex offense against children from living within 880 feet of a public or private school.

✓ Election reformYES

I voted YES for several new election reforms that require higher standards for accurate vote counts, severe punishment for illegal voting, and ensure that military personnel get their ballots on time. But I voted NO on the proposal to force you and every voter in the state to reregister. It is a clear violation of federal law.



Representative
Dawn Morrell

PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



2005 Session Report



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**2005
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Report**

Dear Friends,

I'm happy to be home after a productive legislative session, and happy to report progress on many of the issues that matter most to local families and businesses. I'm especially proud that the Legislature this year:

- Passed a forward-thinking budget that fully-funds the people's education initiatives (I-732 and I-728). Overall, we raised state support for local schools by \$468 per student.
- Enacted a very important proposal to get tough on meth production.
- Protected 22 acres of agricultural research land at WSU Puyallup.
- Opened college doors for 7,900 additional students, including greatly expanded college opportunities at UW Tacoma.
- Restored health insurance coverage for 38,000 low-income children.
- Passed prescription-drug relief to help seniors and others who cannot afford costly medications.
- Enacted the strictest performance-audit law in state history.

There were also disappointments, of course. For example, some tax increases I opposed were passed. But overall I feel very good about the Legislature's work this year.

THANK YOU to all the local citizens who helped make this a successful year. Your letters, phone calls and support made me a stronger voice for our communities. Please remember that wherever you live in the 25th District – whether in Puyallup, South Hill, Midland, Summit, Fife, Tacoma, Edgewood or Milton – I'm here to be a problem-solver for our communities.

Always feel free to call, write or visit me in my newly reopened district office at 107 W. Stewart Avenue in Puyallup. I look forward to hearing from you, and will always remember that you're the reason why I'm here.

Warmly,

Dawn Morrell
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Olympia Office:

342 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7968

E-mail:

morrell.dawn@leg.wa.gov

Puyallup District Office:

107 West Stewart Ave., Suite E2
Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 840-4604

Toll-free legislative hotline:

1-800-562-6000

Hearing-impaired hotline:

1-800-635-9993

X Gas tax increaseNO
I voted NO on the 9.5¢ gas-tax increase that became law. I had to listen to the overwhelming number of local citizens who asked me to vote NO.



X Cigarette, liquor & service tax increasesNO
I also voted NO against increasing taxes on cigarettes, liquor and extended service warranties. These taxes were increased despite my opposition.

✓ Independent performance auditsYES
State Auditor Brian Sonntag calls our new Independent Performance Audit law “one of the most significant actions ever by the Legislature to ensure accountability in state government.” I sponsored and voted YES for this reform to ensure your tax dollars are spent more efficiently.

✓ Fairness for mobile home residentsYES
Fair is fair. Senior citizens and other mobile home park tenants deserve fair and timely resolution of disputes with landlords. That’s why I wrote a new law to improve state investigation and dispute-resolution services for mobile home tenants and landlords. I’ll be visiting mobile home parks this summer to help people understand how this new law could help them.

✓ Shutting down meth labsYES
Meth labs are toxic threats that endanger children and communities and impose huge taxpayer costs. Rep. Tom Campbell (R-Roy) and I led the fight to restrict access to cold and allergy medications used to “cook” meth. Stores must now require photo ID’s to buy these products. Similar laws in other states reduced meth lab incidents by up to 80 percent! We also secured \$500,000 in state funding to help Pierce County fight the meth epidemic. When Democrats and Republicans work together, we get things done!



✓ Prescription Drug Buyers’ ConsortiumYES
Taxpayers will save more than \$100 million in 2005-07 from the prescription-drug reforms I advocated in 2003. This year, we invited businesses and individuals to join in these savings through a Prescription Drug Buyers Consortium. It will help an estimated 81,000 senior citizens and 122,000 uninsured persons save money on prescription medicines.



✓ Honoring our debt to the militaryYES
Coming from a military family, I understand our duty to support the men and women who defend American freedom and values. I led the effort to make the Joint Committee on Veteran and Military Affairs a permanent advocate for military families and veterans and proudly supported new laws to honor our debt to their sacrifices, including:

- **Requiring veterans’ assistance programs in all countiesYES**
- **Authorizing college tuition waivers for veterans and National Guard membersYES**
- **Creating a special state license plate to honor veterans and military serviceYES**
- **Enacting legal protections for military personnel serving overseasYES**
- **Granting property-tax relief for low-income widows and widowers of veteransYES**
- **Requiring pay-day lenders to treat military personnel fairlyYES**

✓ Public Works Trust FundYES
More than 6,000 construction jobs and \$620 million in economic activity will be generated by the 2005 Public Works Trust Fund loan package I supported. You’ve told me that economic development and jobs are important to you.

✓ Mental Health ParityYES
I was proud to be a sponsor of the historic new Mental Health Parity Act. Banning unjustified and discriminatory treatment of mental illness by insurance companies will help 900,000 Washington residents. It will also help every citizen by reducing huge taxpayer and business costs of untreated mental illness.

✓ Education Legacy Trust FundYES
I voted YES to create a state fund dedicated solely to education, including increasing college enrollments and honoring the public initiative (I-728) to reduce class sizes.



✓ Cell-phone privacyYES
It’s outrageous that wireless companies would put your cell-phone numbers in a public phone directory without your written permission! I wrote the cell-phone privacy bill that outlaws this practice and prevents companies from charging fees for keeping cell-phone numbers private. With help from local citizens, AARP and the Consumers’ Union, we passed this needed law.



✓ Making UW Tacoma even betterYES
As a UW Tacoma grad, I was happy to sponsor and vote YES for a new law that enables UW Tacoma to enroll freshmen and sophomores. Upper-division and graduate programs will also grow. We also secured state funding for the autism center at UW Tacoma.

✓ Compassion for people in nursing homesYES
Until now, elderly and disabled residents in publicly-funded nursing homes could only keep \$42.62 of their monthly incomes. The rest is used to pay for care. This tiny “personal needs allowance” hasn’t been adjusted for inflation in 17 years! Working with senior citizens, I was able to get this increased to \$52.62 a month. A \$10 increase sounds small, but it will make a big difference to people who deserve our compassion and help.



✓ Prescription medicines from Canada ..YES
I kept my promise to senior citizens and others who want the right to buy affordable medicines from Canada, where the identical medicine can be 80 percent cheaper. I voted YES for two new laws that seek federal approval to allow state residents to buy prescription medicines from licensed Canadian mail-order pharmacies and allow local pharmacists to buy medicines from Canadian wholesalers.

✓ Health care quality performance standardsYES
Government has much to learn from the private sector, including the value of health care performance standards. I wrote and voted YES for a new law that requires state government to work with businesses to create performance standards for all health care spending. This “Purchasing for Quality” initiative will help patients get better care and help taxpayers get better value for their health care dollars.

State Representative
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